

PECULIARITIES OF THE MALAYS WHO LIVE IN NEW YORK.

Gregariousness of the Colony in Their Various Relations of Life—Amusement of Turtle Fighting—Gambling—Matrimony—Boarding House—Religion.

So far as the western world is concerned the Malay is a sea nomad. Those who have settled in New York came there as seamen, who intended to return by the same ship, but who by accident or other causes were obliged to remain until they were more or less attached to their new home. In the years they have grown by accretion until they form a legitimate colony similar to those of the Chinese, the Italians and the Poles. This colony rises and falls in number according to the nationality of foreign seamen in port. It never falls below 200, and sometimes rises as high as 1,500. The Malay, contrary to popular belief, is not a pure blooded race, as far as the New York representatives are concerned. A leading man in the Sixth ward, Nik de la Cruz, has the build of a Falstaff, a round, full face, more like a German than of any other nationality, a warm, open, cheerful expression, black hair that breaks in heavy curls upon his shoulders, and the physiognomy of an ideal philanthropist. Min Goe, who is equally popular in Oriental circles, and who runs a queer gambling house in 3d street, is thin, wiry, fierce featured, straight haired, yellow skinned and cut like in ways and actions. Malaba, a third, is almost European in his physiognomy, but as dark as a Louisiana negro in hair and skin. These differences are, perhaps, attributable to the fact that most of those in this metropolis come from Manila and other Malay seaports, where from time immemorial there has been a constant miscegenation of all the Oriental races.

GREGARIOUSNESS—AMUSEMENTS. Like all the eastern people, they are habituated to the practices much needed by dense population. No matter where they are they crowd together. It is not uncommon for fifteen or twenty to sleep together in a room of 12 by 25 dimensions. In conversation they squat or stand together till almost all engaged are in personal contact. When they visit a liquor saloon or one of the dance halls so common in the lower ward, they go in knots of five or more. The gregariousness extends to almost all the relations of life, and in some Malaysian communities enters the marital relation, producing that singular custom, polyandry.

Their amusements are few and simple. The most remarkable of these is turtle fighting. Two snapping turtles are carefully selected and trained. The best for sporting purposes are those that weigh from fifteen to twenty pounds apiece. Lighter ones are immature and not so muscular. Heavier ones are lazy, slow and less virile. The training consists in teasing them three times a day with a bamboo rod and allowing them to hang from this by the hour after they once take hold. The only diet is raw meat and red pepper, even water being tabooed. The day before the fight the teeth and jaws are examined, overhauled, filed and scraped till they resemble knife edges.

The fight is conducted in a small ring not more than a yard in diameter. The snappers are provoked and excited, and each tested by the signals of the other. This is done to prevent cowardice or poisonous drugs being placed upon the salient points whence it may enter the mouth, nose and eyes of the opposite antagonist. They are then irritated in the usual style with a short rod until nearly frenzied, and then placed in the center of the ring. There is neither wait nor running away. Each snapper at the other simultaneously. The best hold is an oblique hold. This enables the one that catches to reach the carotid artery and the windpipe without being compelled to bite through the massive cartilages of the neck. Next to this is a straight neck hold, in which the two jaws strike against the top and bottom of the neck. Below this again is the cross hold, in which the jaws strike against the two sides of the neck. Poorest of all is the leg hold. This is regarded by all Oriental sports as the acme of unintelligence, because if both the snappers take leg holds the fight is lengthened out interminably. The contest is to the death—one of the turtles always being killed and frequently both.

GAMBLING—MARRIAGE—RELIGION. The Malays, like the Chinese are great gamblers. Their favorite games for which we have no name in English, suggest (and a few resemble) faro, lottery, roulette, old and even, dominoes and dice. Many of them have learned the American national game and draw and bluff with the sang froid of a Morrissey or a Ransom. In the home life they have made in the new world the Malays are industrious, affectionate and domestic. When they marry they pick out if possible a German woman, next to her a daughter of Erin, then a lady of color, and last of all an American. Why they prefer this order has never been ascertained. Nik de la Cruz is married to a German widow who speaks but little English and he speaks even less German. When asked why he married her he said: "German women are not pretty, but they never get drunk; they don't fight; they work hard; they're good housekeepers, and they have lots of children." When married they herd together the same as when single. A typical boarding house in "Baxter Street Bond" is a compartment on the ground floor, about fourteen feet wide by seventy long, broken up by partitions into six rooms. Of these the front room is the office and store. The next, a compartment fourteen by twenty feet, is the living and sleeping place of the boarders, who vary from one to twenty in number. In the third sleep Nik, his wife and smaller children, in the fourth his larger children. The fifth is dining room and kitchen combined. The sixth and last is the store room. Such a place costs from \$25 to \$70 a month, rent and net its proprietor about \$3,000 per annum. The Malays have been taught so many religions that they may be truthfully said to have none. Missionaries and zealots from the Buddhist, Mohammedan, Roman Catholic and Confucian faiths are found in every town and hamlet of Malaysia. They outnumber Protestant missionaries ten to one. Unlike the latter, they adapt themselves to their surroundings and become integral units of the community. They teach persistently. As a result the Malay faith as seen in New York is a vague mixture of all the religions named.—New York Cor. Cleveland Leader.

Dared Them to Hang Him. Prisoner—But do you think they will hang me?
Counsel—Let them do it if they dare. It would be the best thing that could happen for our side—we would recover heavy damages.
The prisoner seems to understand the damages that would ensue, but thinks recovery doubtful.—Judge.

A FRED ROSE.

"Complex and various is this rose's heart,"
Said one who passed it, marking how each wind
Blew odors from its soul to every part.
Each mind lies open to its kindred mind.
The lover knew—passion his vision is—
How simple was the rose's life—and his
—Overland Monthly.

The Foot of a Horse.

The foot of a horse is one of the most ingenious and unexampled pieces of mechanism in animal structure. The hoof contains a series of vertical and thin laminae of horn, amounting to about 500, and forming a complete lining to it. In this are fitted as many laminae belonging to the coffin bone, while both sets are elastic and adherent. The edge of a quire of paper, inserted leaf by leaf into another, will convey a sufficient idea of the arrangement. Thus the weight of the animal is supported by as many elastic springs as there are laminae in all the feet, amounting to about 4,000, distributed in the most secure manner, since every spring is acted on in an oblique direction.—Bo. n Budget.

The "mortar board" cap has been adopted by the seniors and juniors at Cornell university, each class wearing a distinctive tassel.
Gen. Lippitt a retired official at Washington, aged 79, dances at every party he attends.

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